



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: July 16, 2007
Week Ending: July 15, 2007
CWP WA-CW2907

Wheat Harvest Began and Hot Weather Continued Second Crop Alfalfa Finished, Excellent Quality Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 7.0. Whitman County spring wheat was stressed, suffering from the heat. Average to below average yields have been reported by Walla Walla County, but protein levels seemed good. Hot weather continued causing additional yield reductions in spring planted crops as well as winter crops. Dry edible peas were suffering from the heat, and potatoes continued in bloom. Some counties reported significantly reduced hay yields, but in general the quality of first cutting of hay was good due to the heat and lack of rain. Insect and late season weed control for Christmas tree acreage was underway.

Fruits and Vegetables

Yakima County reported that harvest of later cherry varieties continued in the upper Yakima Valley and apple thinning progressed as well. Growers were preparing to color-pick early maturing peaches and nectarines. Greenhouse growers reported rapidly ripening tomatoes, and home gardeners enjoyed a bountiful harvest of lettuce, radishes and new potatoes in addition to raspberries. The strawberry harvest was nearly finished. Blueberry growers reported brisk sales. Cranberry growers continued with summer irrigation, and raspberry producers continued harvesting activities.

Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 3% very poor, 11% poor, 23% fair and 63% good. Cool season pasture grass has slowed for the summer; good pasture management was beginning to show as legumes fill in the lack of grass growth on well-managed pastures. Shellfish growers completed burrowing shrimp control activities. Harvest and processing of triploid oysters was underway.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	7.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	26	41	33	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	10	34	56	0
Subsoil	18	46	36	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	6	31	63	0
Irrigation Water	2	5	93	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	5	93	0
Hay & Roughage	4	20	75	1

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2006	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Headed	99	98	96	99
Winter Wheat Harvested	6	3	3	4
Barley Headed	100	95	95	99
Potatoes Harvested	5	1	5	9
Corn Silked	45	25	28	24
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	80	60	82	85
Dry Peas Harvested	17	4	28	14
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	72	53	57	70

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	11	33	49	5
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	11	59	30
Spring Wheat Dryland	8	32	41	19	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	7	20	65	8
Barley Dryland	6	19	35	40	0
Barley Irrigated	0	5	27	55	13
Potatoes	0	1	15	84	0
Corn	0	0	19	59	22
Dry Edible Beans	0	3	34	57	6

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clallam/Jefferson: This area's weather continued to be cooler, in the 60s and 70s, with rain in the forecast.

Clark: The weather was warm over the weekend.

Grays Harbor: A week of very warm temperatures with highs reaching the mid-80s resulted in rapid growth on sweet corn. At the same time, growers were challenged to meet irrigation requirements as the warm temperatures rapidly depleted soil moisture. Dairy producers continued making hay under nearly ideal conditions and applying liquid manure to recently harvested forage fields. Greenhouse tomato growers reported rapid ripening. Christmas tree growers finished insecticide applications for aphids on Noble fir. Home gardeners enjoyed a bountiful harvest including lettuce, radishes, and new potatoes in addition to raspberries. The strawberry harvest was nearly finished.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Hot, sunny conditions made hay harvesters happy.

Jefferson: The first hay mowing of the year continued with good production. Grasses were very dry. There were a few grass fires but most were no bigger than two acres. There have been record setting high temperatures for the past nine days. Strawberries were in season; but with the dry weather the berries have been small.

Mason: The hottest day of the year so far was Wednesday, July 11, with the temperature reaching 100 degrees. The heat was very rough on crops since soil moisture was already low. Irrigation was used all week. By week's end, temperatures cooled into the 70's and low 80's with cloud cover and occasional spits of rain. Pastures looked okay, but rain was needed.

Pacific: Hot summer weather conditions helped producers with their late haying operations and with better than average yields this season. On the water,

shellfish growers completed burrowing shrimp control activities and continued seeding and transplanting operations. Harvest and processing of triploid oysters was underway. Cranberry growers were in summer irrigation mode, and raspberry producers continued harvest activities. Insect and late season weed control for Christmas tree acreage was underway.

Pierce/S. King: The recent hot weather may have caused some damage to crops in the South Puget Sound area. One report was received of crop damage to lettuce due to the hot weather. Producers were glad to see the temperatures cooling down.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: The weather has been hot and dry. No crop losses have been reported.

Snohomish/King: The weather has been hot, with temperatures in the high 80s and low to mid-90s with no rain.

Thurston: A week of warm temperatures and no precipitation quickly reduced available soil moisture. Pastures and hayfields without irrigation were rapidly developing drought stress symptoms. Christmas tree growers reported annual needle necrosis from the intense sunlight on both Noble and Grand fir. Growers were beginning to shear Norway spruce and Grand fir. Turfgrass growers were challenged to keep up with irrigation requirements. Blueberry growers who opened fields for U-Pick reported brisk sales. Livestock producers continued to harvest hay and haylage.

Whatcom: Temperatures were in the 80s during the week, except for Wednesday when Lynden had a high of 104 degrees and Bellingham had a 94 degree temperature. Producers were irrigating pretty heavily. Raspberry harvest continued, and some potatoes were blooming.

Central

Benton: The heat continued to cause harm to all crops and pastures. Summer fallow was losing moisture in the heat.

Douglas/Chelan: A lightning storm with some rain and high winds occurred on Friday, July 13. Cherry harvest continued and began in the higher elevations of Chelan County. Harvest was beginning for other soft fruits. Winter wheat was progressing. An average to below average crop was expected due to the low moisture.

Franklin: There was no measurable precipitation during the week. Temperatures were in the high 90s and up to 103 degrees, with evening temperatures in the 60-70 degree range. The second cutting of alfalfa was complete. Much of the grass seed was being harvested or was nearing harvest. It was a good growing-degree week with no reports of crop damage, though there were concerns of crop stress due to the heat.

Kittitas: More scorching heat, warm nights, and very dry conditions continued. Some late hay was still

being put up. Cool season pasture grass slowed down for the summer. Good pasture management was beginning to show as legumes fill in the lack of grass growth. Rangeland conditions were very dry with many water sources empty that would normally be available.

Kittitas (2nd Report): The weather was still very hot, dry, and windy.

Yakima: The weather has been relatively dry and hot with most days of the week reaching into the triple digits. Scattered thundershowers brought a little relief on Friday. Harvest of late cherry varieties continued in the upper Yakima Valley. Apple thinning also continued. Growers were preparing to color-pick early maturing peaches and nectarines.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures were from eight to 14 degrees above normal with 0.01 inches of precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: Hot weather continued causing additional yield reductions in spring planted crops and winter crops in the higher elevations. Harvest was just beginning in the lower elevations. Crop yields were poor in Asotin County, which was well below normal. Reports in Garfield County indicate yields will be average to just below average. The wildfire in the George Creek/Cloverland area reached 13,000 acres. The fire has been 100% contained. A storm late in the week sparked several lightning fires in both counties.

Ferry: Alfalfa's first non-irrigated crop was about 70-90% of normal. Grass hay's non-irrigated crop was reported by some farmers to be 50% of normal in some areas because of the dry early spring. Most hay was put up with no rain due to dry conditions in late June and early July.

Ferry (2nd Report): The county received a thunder and lightning storm on Friday, accompanied by very minimal precipitation. A few alfalfa producers began swathing hay. Cherry harvest was still in progress. Harvest was beginning for other soft fruit.

Lincoln: The temperatures were hotter than normal. Harvest really got going in the southwestern part of the county, with more producers to start in the following weeks. Fire danger was very high on rangeland, and much of the ripening cropland was in danger—which was evidenced by at least one fire.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A week of hot record breaking heat caused significant damage to spring crops. Hopefully, the winter wheat will only be pinched rather than significantly hurt like the other spring crops. Calls from Pend Oreille County indicated the lack of rainfall has significantly reduced timothy hay production. One grower reported crops at only one third of normal production. Other calls came in from Spokane with only two thirds of the normal hay crop. There will be no second cutting because of the heat.

Stevens: The first cutting of hay was complete. Weather conditions were very hot and dry.

Stevens (2nd Report): Temperatures climbed into the 100's throughout the entire week. A lightning storm moved through the area on Friday night starting numerous fires. Grain crops continued to look average despite the dry conditions. Harvest was still a few weeks away.

Walla Walla: Harvest was underway with reports indicating yields were average or slightly below average, but protein seemed good. A lightning event on Friday resulted in some wildfires, but reports indicated all fires were quickly under control.

Whitman: The heat continued! The peas and some spring wheat were starting to suffer due to the heat.

Weekly Weather Statistics July 16, 2007

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
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	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
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WEST															
Bellingham Intl	52	94	68	+7	127	+43	57	+36	0.01	-0.28	1	34.91	+0.78	102	165
Everett	53	90	69	+7	133	+45	63	+42	0.00	-0.28	0	31.69	-2.80	92	161
Hoquiam	56	99	69	+9	132	+61	62	+55	0.01	-0.27	1	68.54	+2.73	104	183
Kelso	57	95	72	+10	158	+64	88	+60	0.00	-0.21	0	39.19	-5.41	88	134
Olympia	50	99	70	+9	143	+55	73	+52	0.00	-0.19	0	54.90	+5.96	112	161
Seattle-Tacoma	58	98	73	+8	161	+56	91	+56	0.01	-0.16	1	43.23	+7.51	121	154
Shelton	50	100	70	+6	143	+41	73	+38	0.00	-0.21	0	74.29	+11.08	118	167
Tacoma WA AP	53	95	71	+7	146	+47	76	+43	0.01	-0.20	1	39.38	+0.80	102	153
Vancouver WA	60	104	76	+13	185	+84	115	+81	0.11	-0.09	1	37.37	-2.35	94	138
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	55	104	81	+13	217	+92	147	+91	0.02	-0.05	1	8.05	-0.39	95	80
Omak AP	62	103	82	+15	226	+106	156	+103	0.00	-0.14	0	9.71	-3.93	71	60
Stampede Pass	48	89	67	+13	120	+82	50	+44	0.08	-0.24	1	97.02	+18.63	124	176
Wenatchee	64	101	83	+10	229	+68	159	+67	0.00	-0.07	0	8.56	+0.77	110	50
Yakima AP	56	102	80	+11	210	+72	140	+72	0.01	-0.02	1	6.92	-0.60	92	61
NORTHEAST															
Colville	55	106	80	+15	211	+99	141	+95	0.06	-0.15	1	14.02	-5.69	71	101
Deer Park	48	102	75	+7	176	+45	106	+44	0.00	-0.21	0	17.43	+0.06	100	111
Republic	48	98	73	+11	166	+73	96	+68	0.01	-0.20	1	13.44	-0.70	95	75
Spokane AP	59	101	80	+12	209	+80	139	+79	0.05	-0.09	1	14.30	-1.15	93	99
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	66	102	85	+11	245	+72	175	+72	0.05	-0.02	1	7.22	+0.42	106	66
Moses Lake	62	103	82	+8	223	+50	153	+50	0.00	-0.07	0	6.23	-0.57	92	63
Quincy	62	97	81	+11	218	+73	148	+73	0.00	-0.07	0	7.67	+0.32	104	49
Ritzville	56	102	81	+13	219	+88	149	+86	0.00	-0.08	0	10.24	-0.48	96	82
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	65	105	85	+8	245	+53	175	+53	0.00	+0.00	0	4.63	-1.45	76	48
Pasco	54	104	80	+6	213	+42	143	+41	0.00	+0.00	0	7.28	+0.26	104	70
Pullman	48	97	73	+9	165	+61	95	+57	0.00	-0.16	0	16.22	-3.64	82	103
Walla Walla Rgn	66	102	84	+10	237	+63	167	+63	0.01	-0.12	1	17.35	-1.07	94	90
Whitman Mission	53	103	77	+7	193	+47	123	+47	0.00	-0.08	0	13.00	+0.10	101	97
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	63	103	84	+11	236	+69	166	+69	0.00	-0.14	0	8.63	-2.70	76	82

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2006

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation

Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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